

RECOGNIZING MR. CALVIN DICKERSON FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS AND SERVICE THROUGHOUT HIS COMMUNITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable and honorable man, Mr. Calvin Dickerson. Mr. Dickerson has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to serve. He is currently a 56-year-old resident of Rolling Fork, Mississippi, where he volunteers countless hours to the Mississippi Christian Family Services.

Mr. Dickerson is well known at Mississippi Christian Family Services and throughout the community for his hard work, dedication, reliability, and kind deeds. His work at Mississippi Christian Family Services includes making sure families in need of quality social services are provided for in a kindly, comforting, and proficient manner.

Mr. Dickerson volunteers with the Rolling Fork Fire Department, Police Department, and assists the security guards with the Sharkey County Sheriff Department at football and basketball games at the local public and private high schools.

He has the opportunity to serve as an assistant tour guide at the two most popular events that are held each year: the Great Delta Festival held in May and the Bear Festival held in October. He enjoys helping the tour guide show students from local schools the different bear carvings and the stations that are set up to inform students about how the event originated and other important features.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dynamic servant of the community, Mr. Calvin Dickerson for his dedication to service throughout his community.

KHAN ACADEMY PROJECT

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the attention of the House to the recent innovative vision developed by the Khan Academy, a non-profit educational organization. The organization's mission aims to decrease the disparity of educational resources, by using the internet as a tool to revolutionize the way we approach knowledge. In their attempt to mobilize a free, world-class education, they have compiled over 2,700 videos in the subjects of math, biology, chemistry, physics, history and art. The production of these videos is helping adults and children fill in gaps of knowledge they either forgot or never learned. I know that the Khan Academy recognizes the importance of technology in education and I commend them for their effort to develop creative strategies to help our children learn.

Salman Khan is the founder and visionary of the Khan Academy project. After graduating from Massachusetts Institute of Technology,

he pursued a career in finance and quit his job in 2009. While he assisted his cousin with the subject of mathematics, he designed tutorial videos and eventually published them online. He received a successful response from over 20,000 users, which ultimately led to his interest in crafting a media tool that would help revamp traditional classroom techniques. Currently, the Khan Academy receives about \$2 million in support and continues to expand videos and programs. Most recently, the organization decided to make the material available in community colleges and charter schools in the United States.

By recognizing the importance of technology in education, we have a responsibility to make sure that more people have access to the internet. If we fail to pave the road for this access to pioneering technologies, we run the risk of furthering economic disparities and barriers to equal education. I encourage my colleagues to become familiar with the Khan Academy's website and use the fresh approaches in technology to elevate their knowledge about the world.

RECOGNIZING GEORGE THIEL

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to recognize one of Northwest Indiana's most dedicated and selfless citizens, Mr. George Thiel, of Griffith, Indiana. After serving the people of Griffith as a firefighter for sixty years, the last twenty-nine of which he served as the department's Fire Chief, George retired from service at the beginning of 2012. In recognition of Mr. Thiel's service to his community, not only as a firefighter but also for his commitment to serving his community in many other capacities, a party was held in his honor on Sunday, January 8, 2012.

George was born March 20, 1926, in Saint John, Indiana, and learned the meaning of dedication and hard work on his family's farm. To this day, George still enjoys farming. After graduating from Dyer Central High School, George entered the Army, where he was quickly promoted to Sergeant for the 99th Infantry Division. During his military service, he participated in the Battle of the Bulge and earned a Purple Heart Medal. George was honorably discharged from the Army in 1945 and began his first career as a home builder, retiring from that position in 1990. Shortly after beginning his first career, George found his true love and married Peggy Vestal in 1951. He then found his other true love and joined the Griffith Fire Department in 1952. George and Peggy were blessed to have three children: Mike, Larry, and Sandy, who have given them six wonderful grandchildren. George remained dedicated to his family and his career and was promoted to Fire Chief in 1983, a post he retained until his retirement.

Of all the awards and highlights of a sixty-year firefighting career, George can be most proud of the public educational work he has accomplished and the countless lives he has saved. George has saved many lives simply through his initiative to provide Griffith residents with smoke detectors, carbon monoxide

detectors, and fire extinguishers at no cost to the resident. Additionally, George has passed on much of his knowledge and expertise to so many firefighters that Griffith will benefit for generations to come.

Aside from his incredible sixty years of service on the fire department, George's contributions to the Northwest Indiana community extend to numerous youth organizations that were fortunate to have George's coaching and mentoring skills. George continues to enjoy volunteering and watching all Griffith High School football and basketball games. George also remains an instrumental teacher to the people of Griffith by sharing his knowledge of the rich tradition and history of the town.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Mr. George Thiel for his lifetime of leadership, service, and dedication to the residents of Griffith, Indiana. He has touched the lives of countless citizens, and his commitment to the safety of his community and to the improvement of the quality of life for the people of Griffith is to be admired.

RECOGNIZING MS. LELA BUIE FOR HER PERSISTENCE DESPITE DISABILITY AND DEDICATION TO SERVE OTHERS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable person with disability, Ms. Lela Buie. Born on June 26, 1938, in Jefferson County, Fayette, Mississippi, she is the youngest of four children to the late Eda and Jude Sims. Her early years of education began at Ledall Elementary School and she later attended Alcorn in Lorman, Mississippi, and received her General Education Diploma.

Ms. Buie was employed at the Mississippi Department of Labor for 17 years before retiring to take care of her children.

Ms. Buie has two daughters, Sarah and Shirley Buie, and four sons, G.C. Buie, Jr., Edward Charles, Jude, and Robert Ander.

Ms. Buie is happy to have seen her loving children grow up to be successful and has a host of nieces and nephews that love and care for her. Ms. Buie is a longtime member of Rosehill Church #2.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Lela Buie for her dedication to serving others in her disability.

RECOGNIZING THE SELECTION OF MR. TRACY HOWARD FOR THE ARMY ALL-AMERICAN GAME

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the accomplishments of Mr. Tracy Howard, Jr. of Miramar, Florida. Mr. Howard was selected to play in the 2012 Army All-American game on January 7, 2012. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate him on this great honor, and to recognize all of his extraordinary achievements.